What is Claimed:

1   1. A method for updating a client computer coupled by means of a network to a server

2   computer comprising:

3   a) changing a status of a server computer;

4   b) transmitting a status message by means of the network between the server

5   computer and the client computer regarding a change of status of the server computer;

6   b) displaying a message at the client computer to apprise a user that a status of the

7   server computer has changed; and

8   c) initiating a communications between the client computer and the server

9   computer over the network to inform the client computer regarding details of the change

10   of status in the server computer.

2. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising the changing of server computer status
by means of software running on a client computer coupled to the server computer by
means of the network.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting a status message is performed
in response to periodic polling of the server status by the client computer.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting a status message is performed
by the server computer sending an alert message to the client computer regarding the
change of server status.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein there are a plurality of client computers coupled to the
server computer by means of the network and wherein the server computer broadcasts an
updated server status to each of the client computers.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the details in the change in status of the server
computer includes a list of updated server computer status features and additionally
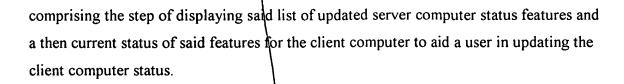
comprising the step of displaying said list of updated server computer status features and a then current status of said features for the client computer to aid a user in updating the client computer status.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the server computer includes a client interface component for allowing the client computer read only access to a status of the server computer while determining a change of status of the server computer.

8. The method of claim 1 additionally comprising automatically reconfiguring the client computer based on the details of the change of status in the server computer.

9. The method of claim 8 additionally comprising displaying a message at the client computer that a status of the client computer has automatically been reconfigured based on the change of status of the server computer.

1   10. A method for updating a client computer coupled by means of a network to a server
2   appliance comprising:
3   a) presenting a status message in response to a change in status of the server
4   appliance by means of the network interface of the server appliance to alert one or more
5   client computers connected to the network that there has been a change of status of the
6   server appliance; and
7   b) responding to a receipt of the status update request message from the one or
8   more clients by sending a network message to a client computer to apprise a client
9   computer regarding a change of status of the server appliance by exposing an upgraded
10   status of the server appliance to said client computer to inform the client computer
11   regarding details of the change of status in the server appliance.

11. The method of claim 10 additionally comprising the step of initiating the change of the status of the server appliance in response to a a request from an administrator having

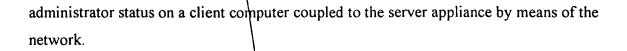administrator status on a client computer coupled to the server appliance by means of the network.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the client computer responds to the communications between the client computer and the server appliance by a step of displaying a user interface that allows the user to selectively update the client to match a changed status of the server appliance.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein the client computer obtains an updated server appliance status and displays an updated server appliance status and a then current status of the client computer to aid a user in updating the client computer status.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein the server appliance includes a client interface component for allowing the client computer read only access to the server appliance to determine a nature of a changed status of the server appliance.

1   15. Apparatus for updating one or more client computers coupled to a computer network

2   comprising a server computer having a processor for executing a stored program within a

3   computer server memory said stored program comprising:

4   a) a status update component to allow a user to change a status of a server

5   computer coupled to a network;

6   b) a communications component for transmitting a status message by means of

7   the network to one or more client computers regarding the change of status of the server

8   computer to apprise a user that a status of the server computer has changed; and

9   c) a read only status component for exposing a detailed listing of the status of

10   said server computer corresponding to an updated status of the server computer

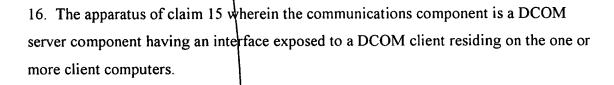11   following the change of status of said server computer.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the communications component is a DCOM server component having an interface exposed to a DCOM client residing on the one or more client computers.

1 17. A computer readable medium for storing computer instructions for updating a client
2 computer coupled by means of a network to a server computer comprising instructions
3 for performing the steps of:
4   a) changing a status of a server computer;
5   b) transmitting a status message by means of the network between the server
6 computer and the client computer regarding a change of status of the server computer;
7   b) displaying a message at the client computer to apprise a user that a status of the
8 server computer has changed; and
9   c) initiating a communications between the client computer and the server
10 computer over the network to inform the client computer regarding details of the change
11 of status in the server computer.

18 The computer readable medium of claim 17 additionally comprising instructions for changing of server computer status by means of software running on a client computer coupled to the server computer by means of the network.

19. The computer readable medium of claim 17 additionally comprising insturctions for periodic polling of the server status by the client computer.

20. The computer readable medium of claim 17 additionally comprising instructions to display the details in the change in status of the server computer including a list of updated server computer status features and additionally comprising the step of displaying a user actuatable control to allow an user to update one or more corresponding client computer features based on the list of updated server computer status features.

21. The computer readable medium of claim 17 additionally comprising instructions for automatically reconfiguring the client computer based on the details of the change of status in the server computer.

22. The computer readable medium of claim 21 additionally comprising insstructions for displaying a message at the client computer that a status of the client computer has automatically been reconfigured based on the change of status of the server computer.

23. Computer readable medium containing computer executable instructions for updating a client computer coupled by means of a network to a server appliance comprising instructions for performing the steps of:

    a) presenting a status message in response to a change in status of the server appliance by means of the network interface of the server appliance to alert one or more client computers connected to the network that there has been a change of status of the server appliance; and

    b) responding to a receipt of the status update request message from the one or more clients by sending a network message to a client computer to apprise a client computer regarding a change of status of the server appliance by exposing an upgraded status of the server appliance to said client computer to inform the client computer regarding details of the change of status in the server appliance.

24. The computer readable medium of claim 23 additionally including instructions for initiating the change of the status of the server appliance in response to a a request from an administrator having administrator status on a client computer coupled to the server appliance by means of the network.

25. The computer readable medium of claim 23 additionally including instructions for implementing a client interface component for allowing the client computer read only access to the server appliance to determine a nature of a changed status of the server appliance.

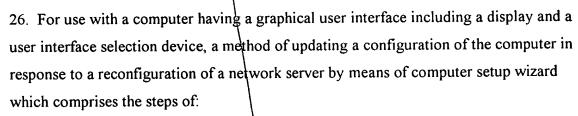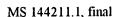1   26. For use with a computer having a graphical user interface including a display and a

2   user interface selection device, a method of updating a configuration of the computer in

3   response to a reconfiguration of a network server by means of computer setup wizard

4   which comprises the steps of:

5   a) displaying an interface link that can be actuated with an interface selection

6   device to launch the computer setup wizard in response to receipt of message from the

7   network server that a server configuration has changed;

8   b) communicating with the server to determine an updated status of the server

9   computer and displaying a list of client reconfiguration choices based on the updated

10 status;

11   c) allowing a user to accept or modify the list of client reconfiguration choices;

12 and

13   d) providing a command button which when actuated by the user begins the

14 process of reconfiguring the client computer based upon the list of client reconfiguration

15 choices.

27. The user interface of claim 26 wherein a list of checkboxes are presented on the
display which allow the user to select desired client reconfigurations from the list of
client configurations.

28. The user interface of claim 27 wherein the checkboxes have an initial state of being
either checked or unchecked based on a sensed configuration of the server computer.

29. The user interface of claim 27 wherein at least one checkbox relates to a disk drive
configuration on the client for sharing access to a disk drive on the network.

30. The user interface of claim 27 where at least one checkbox relates to adding shared
Internet access through a server connection to the Internet by means of communications
with the server over a network.

31. The user interface of claim 27 wherein at least one checkbox relates to adding secure access to services of the server from the client computer by means of network password protection.

32. The user interface of claim 27 wherein at least one checkbox relates to a printer reconfiguration on the client computer based on a presence of a printer coupled to a network.